architecture in England. There were two distinct towers attached to each other. One of the windows had a triangular head, and was divided into two openings by a fluted pilaster, of which the lower part of the flutes was filled with a cable moulding. Some labels inside the church terminated with snakes' heads. There was a mural painting too, which he thought Saxon.

Mr. Wright remarked, that snakes and dragons were common decorations in Saxon writings.

Mr. Godwin said, without reference to the example under notice, he thought it desirable to caution members against too hastily ascribing buildings to the Saxon period; the more so, too, as there seemed a leaning in the Association towards that course. Investigation and analogy, as well as documentary evidence, had shewn how few buildings of this period really remained.

Relative to Deerhurst we may remark, that the ruins of the priory immediately adjoining the church are occupied by pigs and cows, and are in a sad state of ruin. The church itself, the Rev. Mr. Sayers remarked at the meeting, is in good hands.

After a discussion, in which the Rev. Mr. Ellacombe (an indefatigable antiquary), Mr. Crofton Croker, and others, took part, Mr. Wright gave an account of his visit to Lanthony Abbey, and said, masses of ruins were concealed in the field adjoining, perhaps even the church and the cloisters. When there, three gentlemen were measuring for the Forest of Dean Company, and he learnt they were about to construct a dock. In the course of this work much might be discovered, and he trusted the archæologists of Gloucester would watch well the proceedings.

A paper on the primæval archæology of Dorsetshire, by Mr. Warne, was then read, and the meeting did not separate till very late.

On Saturday, the last day, the morning was devoted to a visit to Berkeley Castle, the seat of Earl Fitzhardinge, and one of the few ancient baronial castles still occupied as a residence. The plan of the castle is interesting, and the general effect picturesque and striking. Within, however, bad taste has been efficiently exerted to destroy all that was interesting; and as a last effort, it scattered over the roofs at least fifty cowls of every possible degree of ugliness.

There is, nevertheless, much to interest a careful observer, especially the hall and chapel. The room in which Edward II. was murdered has, of course, historical value.

The church, at a short distance from the castle, has several striking points, particularly a massive stone rood-screen of late date. The body of the church is early English; the west front has a window of five lofty lights with semicircular heads, shewing a period of transition.

At four o'clock, the closing meeting was held in Gloucester, Mr. Pettigrew in the chair, when votes of thanks were passed to the corporation; the local association; Sir Samuel Meyrick; the officers and others. Sir James Annesley, Sir Henry Dillon, Mr. Croker, Mr. Guise, Mr. Alderman Walker (for the corporation), the Rev. Mr. Sayers, the Rev. Mr. Ellacombe, the Rev. Mr. Booth, &c., took part in the proceedings, and thus terminated a week most pleasurable and instructive, from which much good, we are satisfied, will result.*

* The local papers, *The Gloucestershire Chronicle* and *Gloucester Journal*, reported the whole proceedings with great fidelity. A vote of thanks to them was very properly passed.

The following article gives an abstract of Mr. Cresy's paper, and of some of the other communications read.

AN ACCOUNT OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL.

The Abbey Church of Gloucester, Mr. Cresy said, is one of the most ancient in the kingdom, and it was originally dedicated to St. Peter. It was founded in the year 681, in the reign of Ethelred, and to its foundation the city owed its importance. The Benedictines who came from France, and to whom we are indebted for many of the finest ecclesiastical buildings in this kingdom, were settled at Gloucester. Their sanctity produced a change in the state of the country; churches were built in a style of magnificence; kings devoted large portions of their riches to build and endow them, and great privileges were conferred upon them. In the case of Benedictines located at Gloucester, the Forest of Dean paid them tithe for the venison killed in it, and sturgeon caught in the River Severn was sent not to the king's, but to the abbot's table. The people had at first opposed the introduction of the Benedictines after the secular clergy were driven out in 1022, and had killed seven monks in a combat which took place at Churcham, for doing which the Pope declared that so much land should be given to the church as would support these seven monks living. The whole structure of the cathedral at Gloucester was originally built, from its foundation, in 1058, by Aldred, Bishop of Worcester. He considered that the crypt under the choir, the cylindrical pillars and walls of the nave and choir, the walls of the transepts, and, in fact, the entire shell of the building are of the Saxon structure, and although cut into and altered by the Normans and their successors, retain their original dimensions, and shew that the cathedral has not been augmented since the original foundation was laid; the Lady Chapel only excepted. Mr. Cresy then described the building in all its details, commencing with the crypt. Upon examining the principles upon which this crypt is set out, we find that, simple as they are, they indicate a thorough knowledge of the arts of design; we must remember that to get rid of all complex lines, and to acquire simplicity, is the result of a gradual and slow progress. That all the points of support may be equally distributed, it is necessary that some regular figure should be adopted, and the one selected here is the circle, from the centre of which proceeds the whole design: an idea which, probably, they had derived from the Roman structures, in which the circle was largely employed. He described the chapels in the crypt walls, columns, arches, foundation walls, and divisions, the solidity of the masonry, &c.

Ascending to the nave, Mr. Cresy observed, that it bore so strong a resemblance to the crypt, that no doubt could be entertained that they were erected at the same time. In every particular the plan of the nave is precisely the same as that of the crypt. The alterations in the structure were marked in a manner which indicated the tools employed in making them. Where dates are not available, we must refer to the manner in which work is done for information as to the time of its accomplishment. The manner of cutting stone differed widely in ancient times; in Egypt a bronzed chisel was used. The Greeks used tools of a superior kind, which were afterwards introduced into Italy. The Saxons had to fabricate their tools; they used the hatchet, and all the buildings erected by them are marked by sure indications that neither the saw nor the chisel, but the hatchet alone, was used on the surface of the stone work. Mr. Cresy then described the work in detail, and in the course of his observations, adverted to Tewkesbury Abbey Church, which he said closely resembled Gloucester Cathedral in its style and mode of construction. This description of it was, however, taken from his own notes, thirty years old. It was from no preconcerted determination on the part of Mr. Britton and himself to tell the same, but simply the opinion expressed almost naturally by eyes directed to the same subject. "Had I taken another view," continued Mr. Cresy, "I would have looked again rather than have differed from an early friend, whose enthusiasm certainly assisted in kindling the latent spark, which will, I trust, illumine my evening as cheerfully as it does his." The lecturer then described the whispering gallery, quoting the verse inscribed on the wall—

> Doubt not but God who sits on high,
> Thy secret prayer can hear;
> When a dead wall thus cunningly
> Conveys soft whispers to the ear.

The lecturer digressed to describe the principles by which the phenomena of whispering galleries are occasioned, justifying the diversion from the main point by explaining the great importance of the subject in the erection of public buildings. He then proceeded to consider the question whether the cathedral was a Saxon or a Norman structure, upon which he dilated at great length. The columns at Canterbury, in the glorious choir of Conrad, were of the style known as the *Opus Romanum*, which differed widely from the Saxon. Canterbury Cathedral had been destroyed by fire in 1088, prior to Serlo's appointment as abbot of the cathedral, but in all probability the main walls and the massive columns had survived. Now Serlo having come from Normandy, it was likely that in his reparations he would adopt the style then prevalent in that country, and as confirmatory of his views that the structure was fundamentally Saxon, he might mention that the mouldings constituting the half piers did not correspond with the cylindrical pillars that are opposite. These Norman reparations were evident in the windows, in which the Saxon masonry does not bond with the Norman. Mr. Cresy then stated the course, and depicted the features of the reparation carried on by Serlo, Hameline, Blande, Foliot, Thokey, and Wygemore, the latter of whom lived in 1300. Thokey vaulted the nave and erected the elegant buttresses against the south wall; he (Mr. C.) regretted that they had not done their duty in resisting the internal pressure on the wall, but such was the fact; they had been driven about eleven inches out of the perpendicular. The offerings on the tomb of Edward the Second, whose body had been brought to the Cathedral from Berkeley Castle, after his murder, and buried by Abbot Thokey, were so rich, that Wygemore was enabled, by the produce of six years' alms, to build the chapel of St. Andrews, and also to add several other buildings to the monastery. The offerings were made in St. Andrew's chapel. Mr. Cresy then gave a beautiful description of the mode of altering the style of architecture, or rather of combining one with the other; by contrasting the various styles, he observed, we are able to trace the progress of change during four centuries. The simple massive column had given way to an addition of smaller cylinders, then to the pier, and lastly to a variety of small columns, until almost a new character had been given to the structure. The great east window, Mr. Cresy went on to say, had no rival in extent or beauty; and by an ingenious contrivance, it was made to occupy more width than the choir itself. The great window at York was between four and six feet less.

After describing the cloisters and their contents, Mr. Cresy proceeded to the tower, which is upwards of 40 feet in breadth, and 225 in height from the street; rich in ornament, yet its strength was in no wise diminished by it. The motto of Seabrook, the founder of the tower, still remained on some of the tiles which had been preserved in the cathedral. "If this abbey must be dissolved, the will of the Lord be done." The lecturer then noticed the great ingenuity with which the Lady Chapel had been added to the choir, without interfering with the light of the great east window; no one would imagine that there was a building beyond that window. The lecturer then adverted to the great benefit conferred on architecture by the early lodges of freemasons, who had in the thirteenth century spread themselves throughout Europe, and had received the thanks of the pope for the science which they had displayed in building ecclesiastical edifices. "We must not attribute," he said, "to the monks or the clergy the credit of having designed or executed any part of this fabric, for they were not versed in geometry, or in the skill of laying stone; the styles would not have gradually advanced to such perfection, if they had not been fostered and appreciated by a body, whose interest and duty it was to devote their entire attention to

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